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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/478)*]

70/223. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010, 66/220 of 22 December 2011, 67/228 of 21 December 2012, 68/233 of 20 December 2013 and 69/240 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[1] particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,[2] as well as the Framework for Action,[3] which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] Agenda 21,[5] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[6] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[7] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[8] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[9] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[10] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[2] World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex I.

[3] World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex II.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution 60/1.

Please recycle

International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[11] the outcome document of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[12] the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[13] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[14] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,[15]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[16]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Expressing concern that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments, civil society and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition are poverty and inequity, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition and to achieve

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[11] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[12] Resolution 65/1.

[13] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[15] Resolution 68/6.

[16] Resolution 66/288, annex.

internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Welcoming the outcome of the forty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 12 to 15 October 2015,[17] taking note of the Committee's endorsement of the voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems in 2014,[18] and recalling its Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[19]

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, and welcoming also the African Union strategy and road map for facilitating the realization of the 2014 Malabo Commitments on Agriculture, launched during the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in January 2015,

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and of the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting national support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect, as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme,[20] the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005,

Reaffirming also the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so that they may be able to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2017/19.

[18] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

[19] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[20] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as of those living in vulnerable situations,

Remaining deeply concerned that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 793 million people, or one in nine people in the world, suffer from chronic hunger and that 98 per cent of all hungry people live in developing countries, noting with concern that this number remains particularly high, and noting also that stunting is an important challenge to be addressed by Member States,

Remaining deeply concerned also about the continuing food insecurity and malnutrition being faced by millions of people, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

Reiterating the urgent need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, as well as the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition,

Reiterating also the importance, inter alia, of empowering rural women, youth and smallholder and family farmers as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming the implementation of the International Year of Soils, 2015, and World Soil Day, 5 December, to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions, and looking forward to the implementation of the International Year of Pulses, 2016, to increase awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition,

Welcoming also the holding of Expo Milan 2015, the theme of which was "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", and the efforts of participants to draw the attention of the general public to the importance of global food security and nutrition,

Taking note with appreciation of the publication entitled *Achieving Zero Hunger: the Critical Role of Investments in Social Protection and Agriculture*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Food Programme in July 2015, and the publication entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture 2015: Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and noting that the theme of World Food Day 2015 is "Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty",

Recognizing the need to increase public and private investment in the agriculture sector, inter alia, to fight hunger and malnutrition and to promote rural and urban sustainable development,

Taking note of the reports of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security on water for food security and nutrition, food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its guiding principles,[21] and recalling also its promotion of regular disaster preparedness,

[21] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs,

Recalling also that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and acknowledging that reaching Goal 2 and the interlinked targets of the other Sustainable Development Goals will be critical, inter alia, in ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition,

Welcoming the launch, at Expo Milan on 22 October 2015, of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns,[22] which aims to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[23]

2. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of agriculture, development, food security and nutrition, and encourages Member States and all stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue while implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;[24]

3. *Reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that improving food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing this challenge in the context of eradicating poverty must be nationally articulated, designed, owned, led and built in consultation, as an inclusive process, with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and its results framework, which is an integral component of the Programme that provides guidance on planning and implementing investment programmes;

5. *Welcomes* the increased political commitment by Member States to tackle hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in this regard welcomes the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, and encourages Member States to engage in the movement at the global and country levels to further reduce global hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in particular in women, especially pregnant and lactating women, and children under age 2;

[22] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

[23] A/70/333.

[24] Resolution 70/1.

6. *Also welcomes* the six global nutrition targets set by the World Health Assembly to address global malnutrition;[25]

7. *Takes note* of the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, signed by more than 100 countries, companies and civil society organizations, to reduce the number of stunted children by 20 million by 2020 and the financial commitments made to support this goal, as well as the second Nutrition for Growth event, which will be held in 2016;

8. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge and the aim of a world free from hunger, and takes note of the progress made in improving cooperation, coordination and coherence by all stakeholders to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition;

9. *Stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including by improving and aiming to ensure the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development, and notes that the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement should also benefit, where appropriate, local smallholders with regard to promoting food security, improving nutrition outcomes and reducing inequality;

10. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience of food and agricultural production to climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, and measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems, which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale and family-farm producers;

11. *Also recognizes* the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015, noting the adverse impact of climate change on food security;

12. *Reaffirms* the necessity of promoting, enhancing and supporting more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable and efficient food production systems and ensure food security;

13. *Welcomes* the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,[2] as well as the Framework for Action[3] which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate;

14. *Recognizes* that food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition, and welcomes the establishment of

[25] World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1, annex 2.

national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets available to all, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

15. *Reaffirms* the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly inhabitants of small island developing States;

16. *Acknowledges* that social protection programmes and measures are effective in reducing poverty and hunger;

17. *Encourages and recognizes* the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school-feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

18. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists with regard to many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to empower women, in particular rural women, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions of work, and to guarantee their personal security, full access to land and natural resources and access to local, regional and global markets;

19. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

20. *Recognizes* the important role of indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems in the conservation of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

21. *Takes note* of the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-ninth session[26] as well as the report of the Committee on Agriculture on its twenty-fourth session,[27] which expressed support for the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems concept and recognized the contribution of the Heritage Systems to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture sector, promote rural development and aim for ensuring food security and nutrition, notably in developing countries, in a sustainable manner, which will lead to rich payoffs across the Sustainable Development Goals, and underlines the importance of taking the

[26] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/REP.

[27] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/21.

necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities by, inter alia, enhancing access for agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

23. *Recognizes* the growing need to take action to fight hunger and malnutrition among the urban poor;

24. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;

25. *Also reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research on food, nutrition and agriculture, extension services, training and education, and of funding for such research from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in order to strengthen agriculture as a key sector to promote development and to build up resilience to support better recovery from crisis and shock, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

26. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security and nutrition, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the inclusive participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets;

27. *Also stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, including with the support of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

28. *Recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that the reliability and timeliness of such systems should be strengthened at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies;

29. *Stresses* the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, increased promotion of appropriate harvesting practices, agrofood processing, appropriate facilities for the storage and packaging of food and by encouraging sustainable consumption patterns;

30. *Reaffirms* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a key organ in addressing the issue of global food security and nutrition, and notes the role that the Committee could play in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition;

31. *Encourages* countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[19] as well as the voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,[18] as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012 and 2014, respectively;

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition", unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

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22 December 2015